

What seems so idyllic is actually a problem in the town of Arn. Since reunification, the factories have disappeared. It all started so well, say Manfred Gerbot and Christoph Begrich, who fought for the end of socialism in 1989 as GDR opposition members. I think today there are enough people who tell us, "You are to blame for the unemployment." Yes, you haven't given them any peace. And that's already sad. The civil rights activists wanted more than freedom of travel and consumerism, a new social system. They accept it with its good and bad sides, even though it has also drastically changed their lives. For example, working life has become completely different. The collegial atmosphere that existed before is no longer there. The competitive struggle of everyone against everyone else is part of it; you have to live with it. That is particularly hard for the people of Arn to understand. In the town with the highest unemployment in Thuringia for 20 years, according to surveys, more and more East Germans emphasize the good sides of the GDR. and some turn completely away from what has been achieved I see it the same way, so I can build the wall 10 m higher if our job has our income and doesn't need to be about every penny before all work makes sometimes life hell when you have to go there especially when you are now alone with a child, so what a West didn't need to be the disappointments of the present cause longing for the past, cohesion, security, social warmth like in the GDR, where people also lived and loved despite in an oppressive system in which many only went along but in which those who participated were provided for, a little bit of this homeland still exists in the unemployment reef of the People's Solidarity, here nobody wants the wall back, but everyone shares bad experiences with the market economy, on whose unpleasant sides nobody could have prepared them what are the consequences of telling us that will come our way, so to speak Thrown in at the deep end with unemployment and everything else, what about freedom? I don't have the freedom like people used to say. I'd like to travel there or there, but I can't anymore. Nothing's possible anymore. She wants to make a difference in the democracy. Christine Zimmer is working towards a new playground for the school in Arern. The mayor's office in Dieemig. Primary schools should convey a critical image of the GDR, but many teachers still can't condemn their own past in front of the younger generation. That one isn't really consciously attached to this old ideological image, but I probably don't notice certain things. I'm sure I feel the same way about MSS, that I say, "It wasn't really that bad," and many things we had were first suppressed and now they're being brought back as innovations. The fact that not everything was bad has been overshadowed by the atrocities. The security of the state, the harassment of dissenters, for social psychologists, an act of self-assertion for many East Germans who glorify the time, how wonderful the FDJ was, or the East German products they enjoyed together. This is also a reaction to the West German perspective, which equates East Germans, so to speak, the person with the system, and thus puts them down. And then they are proud that they endured it and form a community of memory. This nostalgia must now be explained by the Federal Government to all Germans who are co-financing the costs of reunification, like this new highway in Brandenburg. The responsible minister demands that the truth about socialism be kept alive through education and finds an indignant debate unhelpful. I am concerned that the discussion about the GDR is being narrowed to the dispute over a term. That must not be. Regardless of whether it was an unjust state or not, the GDR is much more than that. East Germans can be proud of their lives in the GDR and That doesn't lessen the fact that we're still talking about a dictatorship. Dictatorship

and a good, successful life—both belong to the GDR. But for those who, as civil rights activists, endured a life full of disadvantages in the fight against the GDR regime, the idealized view of the past remains an imposition. I'm annoyed by that, and if someone says that to me, I say, "Look, to my knowledge, there are still two communist states. You can travel wherever you want. Fly to North Korea or to Castro, and then you can live like back then. That's possible today. The advantage of this system—freedom—can be strenuous and sometimes painful," say Christoph Begrich and Manfred Gerbut. Nevertheless, for them, even 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, freedom is the right one, the only way.